

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01
 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
 USIA-06 IO-13 CU-02 EB-08 /081 W
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R 011820Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4277
INFO AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY CARACAS
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO
AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0444

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM, PORG, GY
SUBJECT: GOG RATIFIES INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS

REF: (A) 76 GEORGETOWN A-75, (B) 76 STATE 43519,
 (C) 75 GEORGETOWN A-31

SUMMARY: GOG HAS RATIFIED THREE UN CONVENTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS. FONMIN WILLS TOLD CHARGE THAT GUYANA WANTED TO BE IN LINE WITH US ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE. END SUMMARY.

1. CHRONICLE OF FEB. 25 ANNOUNCED THAT GOG HAS RATIFIED INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON ECONOMIC, SOCIAL, AND CULTURAL RIGHTS, INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON THE ELIMINATION OF ALL FORMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, AND INTERNATIONAL CONVENANT ON CIVIL AND POLITICAL RIGHTS. CHRONICLE EDITORIAL STATED THAT THROUGH SOCIALIST JUSTICE AND EFFORTS OF PEOPLE'S NATIONAL CONGRESS (PNC) GOVERNMENT, GUYANA IS BUILDING EGALITARIAN SOCIETY AND FORGING RACIAL UNITY.

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2. WILLS POINTEDLY TOLD CHARGE DURING FEB. 24 MEETING THAT GOG HAD RATIFIED CONVENTIONS AND THAT IT WANTED TO BE IN LINE WITH US ON THIS ISSUE.

3. IN A LONG ARTICLE WHICH MIMICED FONMIN WILLS- COMMENTS TO CHARGE, CHRONICLE'S SENIOR POLITICAL CORRES-

PONDENT NOTED THAT ASSAULTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS HAVE GROWN DURING RECENT YEARS AND THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY MAY NOW BE PREPARED TO DO SOMETHING TO IMPROVE SITUATION. HE POINTED OUT THAT PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS, CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IS LIKELY TO BECOME A MAJOR CONCERN OF WORLD FOR REST OF TWENTIETH CENTURY. COMMENTATOR SPECULATED THAT US WILL GRADUALLY FOCUS ATTENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN THIRD WORLD. HOWEVER, HE WARNED THAT CARTER SHOULD NOT BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH RHETORIC OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FORGET THAT IN PAST AMERICAN MONEY AND MILITARY HARDWARE HAVE BOLSTERED RUTHLESS DICTATORSHIPS. A GENUINE CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS WOULD BE WELCOMED IN PROGRESSIVE PARTS OF THIRD WORLD, BUT THERE IS NEED FOR GREATER UNDERSTANDING OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SOCIO-ECONOMIC SYSTEMS. FOR EXAMPLE, WHEREAS IN WEST SOCIETY IS ORGANIZED AROUND THE INDIVIDUAL, IN CASE OF SOCIALIST COUNTRIES SOCIETY IS ORGANIZED AROUND THE PEOPLE, AND RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS ARE SECOND TO RIGHTS OF GROUP. PEOPLE ARE ALSO ENTITLED TO ECONOMIC RIGHTS. THE COMMENTATOR SUGGESTED THAT PERHAPS A NEW WORLD ETHIC TO GUIDE GOVERNMENTS IN THEIR CONDUCT TOWARDS THEIR PEOPLE MAY DEVELOP AS NEW WORLD ECONOMIC ORDER IS CREATED.

4. COMMENT: GOG RATIFICATION OF UN CONVENTIONS IS BOTH A POSITIVE GESTURE PREPARATORY TO FONMIN WILLS' VISIT TO US AND AN EFFORT TO PREEMPT INTERNAL CRITICISM OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES. WILLS IS CONCERNED THAT FREQUENT ALLEGATIONS

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BY OPPOSITION SPOKESMEN OF GOVERNMENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS MAY FOCUS US ATTENTION ON SITUATION HERE EVEN THOUGH MOST OF THESE ACCUSATIONS ARE POLITICALLY MOTIVATED. END COMMENT. BLACKEN

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